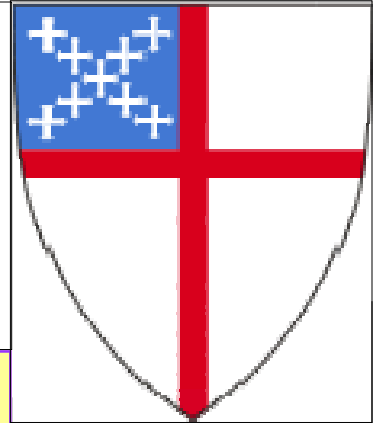


# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Cypress Mill, TX  
"Heaven in the Hills"

April-May 2011 Newsletter



## A Message from Father Bye...

### "The Most Profound Week of the Church Year"

It is the most profound week of the year in the life of the church. If this is true then it stands to reason that it would be the most profound week of the year for each of us as individual disciples of Christ. It is holy week of course, so called because it is intended to be a time set aside, set aside to give us, his followers an opportunity to enter into those great mysteries of Jesus the Christ by which he has created for us a means by which we may become new people, a new creation.

It is not an everyday event for one to be provided with an opportunity to become a new person, and it is a hard thing to live out our lives in a manner that does justice to the free gift that we have been given through the mysteries of Jesus Christ. So reason would have it that God the Holy Spirit would, through his church, provide his people (that is us) with a special opportunity to do what we might not do of our own accord on a daily basis. The opportunity is that for one week we can accompany Jesus on his final journey which has become known as his passion, death and resurrection and thereby become more able to pay homage, to worship and to offer thanks and to properly celebrate his making us worthy to be wholly his and dwell with him in complete unity forever more.

The gifts are huge, almost too huge to fully comprehend on any given Sunday. However, now by the grace of God comes this holiest of weeks, beginning with Passion or Palm Sunday. This day is the beginning of, yes the *beginning* of, a great outpouring of grace that provides us with an opportunity that is found in no other time or place beyond God's church. The events which follow on Maundy Thursday, "The Watch," Good Friday's Procession Of The Cross and The Great Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday truly flow with grace and mercy which provides us with benefits of his passion known only through this holiest week of the year. As we enter into this journey we truly enter into the Holy of Holies.

- Father Bye+

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## Important Dates

(Refer to the Lenten Event schedule on page 8 and to "Services & Events" found on page 4 for more important dates)

April 6: Vacation Bible School planning meeting in Swope Hall, 4:30 PM

April 10: Easter Basket Ministry, Swope Hall , 11:15 AM (see story on page 7)

April 12: Honoring Mae Hernlund, 2 PM in Swope Hall

April 24: Easter Sunday (Services at 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM)

April 26: Floral Arranging Craft Class, 6:30 PM, Swope Hall, bring a vase

May 1: Washer Toss Tournament and BBQ at the home of Charlie and Jeannine Brown in Horseshoe Bay (see story on page 11)

**Note:** For the most current information on church events please refer to the website calendar found at <http://www.stlukes-cm.org>

### Bishop's Committee Meeting

**April 19, 2011, @ 6:15 PM**

**Swope Hall**

**All are welcome to attend**

### St. Luke's is on the Web...

Find the website at

<http://www.stlukes-cm.org>

### Important Contacts...

Vicar - Tommy Bye ; 817-308-5850 ; Email: [byetommy@yahoo.com](mailto:byetommy@yahoo.com)

Church Office - 830-825-8001

#### Bishop's Committee Contact Information

Sandy Hodges, Senior Warden Home: 830-644-2345, Cell: 512-663-9745;  
[scroftshodges@gmail.com](mailto:scroftshodges@gmail.com)

Scott Dawson, Treasurer, 210-748-0238

Don Gray, Secretary, 512-496-3583

Tom Peterson, 512-264-0336

Jorn Budde, 512-695-6057

Jim Furber, 830-868-4437

Rita Reiner, 830-825-3335

John Stephenson, 830-825-3334

Christie Schroeter, 830-825-2102

Our website is the place to visit for daily devotionals, photos, calendar, current and past newsletters, Bishop's Committee minutes, events at St. Luke's, driving directions, schedule of lay readers, acolytes, and greeters, etc.

Check it out and watch for improvements to come in the following months!

## **Schedule of Lay Readers, Acolytes, and Greeters**

Find the schedule at St. Luke's website, <http://www.stlukes-cm.org>. It provides the schedule for several months in advance and will be updated every month or so.

## St. Luke's Services & Events

### Sundays

8:00 AM: Holy Eucharist (no music)  
9:15 AM: Adult Christian Education (Swope Parish Hall )  
9:15 AM: Child care while parents attend Adult Education (Swope Parish Hall)  
10:00 AM: Children Sunday School (Swope Parish Hall )  
10:15 AM: Holy Eucharist (with music)  
10:15 Children's education (Swope Parish Hall)  
11:15 AM: Coffee and snacks (Swope Parish Hall )

### Other Days

Monday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer  
Tuesday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer  
Tuesday 9:30 AM: Women's Bible Study (Swope Parish Hall)  
Tuesday 6:30 PM: English as a Second Language Class (Swope Parish Hall)  
Wednesday 9:00 AM: Morning Prayer  
Wednesday 11:00 AM: Holy Eucharist  
Wednesday noon: Women's Small Group (Cursillo Reunion, Swope Parish Hall)  
Wednesday 12:30 PM: Men's Small Group at Casa Mesa restaurant, on Hwy 620 near Hwy 71, in front of Home Depot

## St. Luke's Calendar now "On-Line"

A new change to the St. Luke's website is the addition of a church calendar (kudos to our Communications Group for setting the calendar up!).

You can reach the church website at <http://www.stlukes-cm.org/>. Once there, click on the "Calendar" link found on the left margin.

The calendar presently contains our regularly scheduled church services, Lenten events, etc. It will also be used to schedule St. Luke's events and meetings.

If you'd like to see something added to the calendar (or an edit made to it), contact Beth Preston at the church office. Parishioners who organize events are especially encouraged to contact Beth so that the event can be posted on the calendar. The calendar is a wonderful tool and it is hoped that it becomes heavily utilized.

## Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

We are holding an organizational meeting for those interested in helping with a Vacation Bible School this summer. We are meeting at the church Wednesday, April 6 at 4:30 p.m. Come brainstorm with us as we seek the Lord's guidance in sowing the seeds of the gospel to our community children. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me." Prayerfully consider what part He wants you to play in this vital endeavor. If you are interested in participating in some aspect of VBS but can't attend the meeting, please let Doreen or Beth know.

Blessings, Beth Preston

# From Our Senior Warden...

Greetings to all,

There is much good and meaningful work going on at our beloved St. Luke's. Many of you have been attending the Lenten services, meals and programs. The Stations of the Cross certainly brings sin, forgiveness, repentance to a very conscientious level, opening the door to reflect on the gift of grace we have been given through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. If you have not yet attended one of the Wednesday evening Lenten programs, I encourage you to do so. All of these opportunities can add much to our spiritual growth.

**John Stephenson** has agreed to serve as our new Jr. Warden. If you have questions regarding the buildings, maintenance, grounds, etc. please contact John. He is eager to serve and I know will be responsive to your comments. Thank you in advance John, for your willingness to act in this capacity.

**Ralph Bishop** and **Pat Burleson** have cleared the property given to us by Fielding and Rita Reiner located east of the church. It just looks wonderful. A great big "thank you" to these men for their hard work in making this happen.

**Liz and David Manning**, with the help of Jenny Peterson are putting together a landscape plan for the church grounds. Anyone interested in helping with the landscape project, may contact Liz or David. There is also a basket in Swope Hall if someone wants to put their name in the "hat" for participation or suggestions. Please remember there are many jobs to do. If you are unable to physically work perhaps you may want serve food on workdays, donate funds for plants, or just come for moral support. Please let the committee know if you are interested in working on this very special project.

The Altar Guild is now under the direction of **Sandi Burleson**. **Gail Moreman** is still available in an advisory capacity and continues to serve as an active member of this ministry. Sandi is doing a great job and has organized the new Sacristy. She put together a wonderful workshop for Altar Guild members, with the help of Father Bye. We are also excited about the purchase of 2 new Superfrontals (green and red) for the altar, two torches, and a new Paschal Candle holder and candle. We are also purchasing a lectern for services in Swope Hall. These new items are sure to greatly enhance the appearance of the Altar for worship services. The new items were purchased with funds from the Memorial Funds account. These are funds that have been given in memory of loved ones associated with St. Luke's. If anyone wishes to honor/remember a loved one, a gift to the Memorial Fund may be a consideration. A new Altar to be used for services in Swope Hall has been made by master craftsman **Michael Moreman**. This Altar is being given to the church by **Joe and Marie McShane** in memory of their son. The altar has been completed and will soon assume its rightful place in Swope Hall. This is a glorious gift and we thank God for those that are so giving and talented.

Crafts Night...The second crafts night was deemed successful after 8 of us learned to either crochet or knit (a little). **Amy Jameson** taught a number of us to crochet, while **Sue Peterson** taught knitting. It was a fun night and I think we all left feeling very proud of our accomplishments. Sue has agreed to serve as the leader for our Prayer Shawl ministry, which is an outgrowth of crafts night. If you can crochet or knit and want to share your talent, by making a shawl or lap blanket for the elderly please give Sue a call.

Our Children's Sunday School is off to a super start this year...**Doreen Budde** is our new director, and along with numerous dedicated teachers, is working hard to ensure the children have a wonderful experience when they attend Sunday School. Their classroom is decorated with bright, happy colors making it warm and welcoming. Soon after the first of the year each child received a post card in the mail with a big "Happy Face" letting them know Sunday School is a joyous place to be, learning and sharing with one another. All of our teachers have now completed the mandatory class (as per the Diocese) "Protecting God's Children". This was a very eye opening training course taught by **Sally Smith**. All of those that took it are appreciative of the opportunity as it gave much insight into working with and protecting our precious children. To complete/receive credit for the course, all participants had to pass an official background check. All those taking the course generously paid their own \$25.00 fee for the background check. How blessed we are at St. Luke's to have such dedicated and caring women looking after our children and grandchildren.

(Continued on page 11)

# St. Luke 's Bishop 's Committee Retreat

This year's Bishop's Committee workdays were held March 18-19 in our own Swope Hall. The workshop focused on two topics: (1) The feasibility of becoming a Parish Church versus remaining a Mission Church, and (2) The status of and plans for expanding the Church ministries.

Regarding Mission vs. Parish it was decided to further investigate the question by bringing it to you, the congregation. We decided on a discernment process which includes: arranging for guest speakers, sending out survey cards, having open discussion groups and utilizing the group gatherings to fully explore the wishes of the congregation. Please know that this is an open question but is something that does deserve consideration at this point in the life of St. Luke's. The answer to this question will be guided by the wishes of the congregation. We hope everyone will participate in this very important issue and look forward to candid, open, and productive discussions.

Church Ministries... Our goal for the remainder of this year is to really light a fire under our ministry programs. We have a beautiful building which is only a place to really do God's work. To build a truly successful ministry program everyone's involvement is needed. There is something for everyone in the various ministries currently in place. Hopefully everyone will review the following ministry opportunities and find one or more in which to serve. Also anyone wishing to change to a new ministry don't hesitate to do so. For additional information on any of the ministries contact the liaison or chairperson listed.

## Fellowship/Hospitality... Rita Reiner, liaison

Marie McShane, chairperson

Goal: Fellowship...To bring church members and non-members together to strengthen their Christian faith and belief in God by creating an atmosphere, through social gatherings that allow Christians to minister and demonstrate to others God's word of "love one another."

Goal: Hospitality...To take the initiative to welcome others and invite everyone to share in our Christian life.

## Worship/Mission....Scott Dawson, liaison

Connie Bye...chairperson, Missions

Goal: Worship Committee...To provide meaningful worship experiences for our members and visitors. To provide guidance for what happens during our worship times. Its role is to examine the various worship experiences and make recommendations to the vicar for ways that each can be strengthened and improved. This committee serves in an advisory role to the vicar.

Goal: Missions...This committee receives suggestions from the parish as to ministries to develop and fund. It especially encourages recommendations of missions which: 1) have an existing connection with our parishioners, 2) are smaller ministries where our contribution can make an appreciable difference, 3) allows us to maintain a balance between ministries with different emphases, and 4) are explicitly Christian (sometimes inter-faith) in motivation. The missions group also supports world mission initiatives, sending out and supporting missionaries from our congregation.

## Facilities/Grounds/Maintenance...John Stephenson, liaison

Goal: To keep the buildings and grounds of St. Luke's neat, clean, safe and presentable at all times ensuring all maintenance needs are addressed in a timely manner. This committee will also assist in developing plans for future improvements.

**(Continued on page 10)**

# Update: Our "Piedras Negras" Mission Efforts

In February and March our team from St Luke's was in Piedras Negras working on construction and sewing projects.

The foundation has been laid for the three bedroom house the family from El Buen Pastor will receive. Completion is estimated to be by Easter. To be considered to receive the house, the family was required to own the land and be willing to work with the team while building. Chuck Kinzler is heading up the project. If you would like to make a contribution toward the house, please send it to the church and indicate it is for house construction. As little as twenty dollars will pay for a worker all day. This is a wonderful opportunity for a deserving family to be in their own home.



Above: Chuck Kinzler and David Manning start the foundation for a house in Piedras Negras at the end of March with the help of three workers from El Buen Pastor.



Above: The concrete arrives for the foundation and the workers smooth the floor.

The sewing ministry continues to make beautiful bags and aprons that the mission team is selling for them. The women continue to improve in their sewing projects. The sale of these items go into the sewing account at El Buen Pastor which pays each of the women, gives some to the church, and keeps the remainder in the sewing account. The women are very motivated and proud of the work they have done. The sewing building is open and available to them for their own projects usually twice a week.



Above Left: Barb and Clara, two of the most talented sewers, planning fabrics for a bag to be sold through St. Luke's. Above Right: Chuck Kinzler directing Father Bye and Scott as they add a four inches to the cutting table.

Continued on next page...



Above: Left: Father Miguel visiting with a few women in the Piedras Negras sewing room. Center: Clara Escobedo shows young girls the bags she has helped make at El Buen Pastor in Piedras Negras last week. Right: Sorting and organizing many, many spools of thread.

A few of the expert sewers have begun making pillows using the tapestries from Uganda. They were commissioned by The Threads of Blessings group from Bishop Jones Center. They also have denim shirts with the tapestry on the back for purchase now. This ministry continues to flourish and bless all those involved.

The team members who were on the last two missions are Elizabeth and David Manning, Nancy and Chuck Kinzler, Linda Appleton, Barb (a friend of Nancy's who has been going for twenty years), Pam and Scott Dawson, Connie and Father Bye, and Elizabeth Clark. An amazing team!

Our next mission trip is tentatively scheduled for April 27 and will involve sewing and small construction. The Piedras Negras Vacation Bible School will be in July. Contact any team members for questions.

-Connie Bye

## EASTER BASKET MINISTRY

The young women of the church are getting together on Sunday, April 10, following the 10:15 service to put together Easter Baskets for the children of Santa Fe Episcopal Church in San Antonio and the Children associated with the Child Advocacy Group in Marble Falls. Some of the ladies in the church will be providing sandwiches and childcare for those working on this project. Anyone interested in participating in the effort please contact Sandy Hodges, Doreen Budde or Corrie Craig. Donations for this outreach are welcome.



# Upcoming Lenten Season Events

**April 6 and 13 (Wednesdays)** --- Walk the Stations of the Cross and enjoy a light Lenten supper, followed by a Lenten book study/discussion led by Father Bye ("Celebration of the Disciplines"). There are three parts to each Wednesday evening program: devotion, supper and book study/discussion. You may attend any or all three parts.

Gather at the Parish Hall, 6:15 PM

## Holy Week

Holy Week is the holiest time of the year. Worship services center around the final events of our Lord's life before His resurrection. Consider joining for these services as a way of deepening your understanding of Christ and His ultimate sacrifice for us.

**Palm Sunday, April 17** --- marks the beginning of Holy Week and signifies Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. This service will include the Blessing of the Palms and a procession by the congregation into the church.

Services: 8 AM (no music) and 10:15 AM (organ/hymns)

**Maundy Thursday, April 21** --- focuses upon the Lord's agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and His institution of the "Last Supper". There will be a stripping of the altar at this service.

Service: 6:30 PM, in the church.

**Good Friday, April 22** --- commemorates the imprisonment, trial and death by crucifixion of Jesus and the hour He hung on the Cross.

Service: 12:00 (noon) in the church.

**Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 23** --- the most ancient Easter service in the Christian Church. At this meaningful and impressive service attendees gather in darkness, light the new fire, and celebrate the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies in the resurrection of Christ. This is a candlelight service not to be missed.

Service: 8:00 PM

**Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 24** --- the Day of Resurrection. There will be a traditional Easter service to include the children's flowering of the Cross.

Services: 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM

## Refreshment Sign-ups for Sundays

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up for providing Sunday food treats by use of the signup sheet posted on the refrigerator in Swope Hall. Two or more might want to collaborate on a Sunday and that way no one person is burdened with bringing all the food. Perhaps someone that comes to the early service can volunteer for that service and someone else can sign up for the late service. Men are welcome to sign up as well to share their specialties!

## Honoring Mae Hernlund

All St. Luke's women are encouraged to attend a gathering to honor Mae Hernlund for her years of service to the Johnson City Garden Club. The event will take place in Swope Hall on April 12 at 2 PM.

## “Coffee Duty” Humor

A man and his wife were having an argument about who

should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'You should do it because you get up first,

and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee.

The husband said, 'You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee.'

Wife replies, 'No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.' Husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me.' So she fetched the Bible, and opened the Old Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says . 'HEBREWS'

## How about a St. Luke's Cookbook? Yummy!!

It's clear that St. Luke's is blessed with some very good cooks! The Communications Group is planning to prepare a collection of favorite recipes from St. Luke's parishioners. Submit your favorite recipes to Don Gray via email by **June 1** to be included in the cookbook. Submissions should be created in Microsoft Word software. If you don't have a computer or Word software, find a friend who does! Cookbooks will be distributed as a PDF file to save to your computer or to print yourself. Paper copies will be sold at cost (minimal). Email your submissions to [donaldkgray@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkgray@gmail.com)

## Directory Being Updated

St. Luke's directory is being updated at present. Contact Don Gray by phone or by email (512-496-3583, [donaldkgray@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkgray@gmail.com)) if your information needs changing (postal address, email address, phone numbers, children's names). Plans are for the directory to include photos. If there is a particular photo you'd suggest for the directory, please email it to Don. Otherwise we plan to use photos already on file with the church (many of these were taken at the dedication of Swope Hall in January). Photos of "couples" are suggested for those who are married.

## Floral Arranging Craft Class

April 26th in Swope Hall, 6:30 PM. Erin Curtis, a floral designer from Austin, will show us ideas for home, altar and wildflower arrangements. Bring your favorite vase.

# Sangre de Cristo



Blood of Christ,  
Pour down like rain.

Blood of Christ,  
Come heal my pain.

Blood of Christ  
Has set me free.

Blood of Christ  
Will hallow me.

Blood of Christ  
To wrap around me;

Blood of Christ  
To fill and drown me;

Blood of Christ  
To inundate me;

Blood of Christ,  
Intoxicate me!

Blood of Christ  
Now running through  
me.

Blood of Christ,  
Do Thou undo me.

Blood of Christ,  
Thy victory won!

Blood of Christ  
Hast made us one.

-Beth Preston

(Continued from page 5, "St. Luke's Bishops Committee Retreat")

Youth/Education...Tom Peterson, liaison

Doreen Budde...Chairperson, Children's Sunday School

Goal: Education...To organize and provide avenues to enhance the Christian Education program for adults and children of St. Luke's.

Goal: Youth...To develop ways to contact and interest youth in participating in worship services and activities at St. Luke's.

Communications...Don Gray, liaison

Goal: To facilitate sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through all communication avenues available to St. Luke's and its parishioners, both external and internal.

Finance...Jim Furber, liaison

Goal: To oversee the fiscal well-being of the church finances, ensuring St. Luke's follows proper accounting procedures, is totally solvent and that monies are always expended in a prudent manner. Ensures financial reports are available to parishioners at all times for their review.

Evangelism/ Outreach...Sandy Hodges liaison

Beth Preston....Evangelism, Chairperson                      Rick Schroeter:  
Outreach Chairperson

Goal: Evangelism...To joyfully spread the good news of the Gospel and bring people into the church to seek their own personal faith experience through Jesus Christ.

Goal: Outreach...To extend a helping hand into the community through providing needed support and physical needs to others.

As you can see, much work has been done but much more is left to do. The liaisons and chairpersons for the ministries have come up with some really exciting ideas. Plans are to provide opportunities for you to talk with the various ministry coordinators and discuss all the possibilities. Our hope is that each and every member of the congregation will decide to jump on this band wagon by joining a particular mission or two. Participating in a ministry is bound to change your spiritual life. Remember, there are so many ways to participate. There is something just for you.

PRAISE BE TO GOD!

Faithfully,

Sandy Hodges, Sr. Warden

**Charlie & Jeannine Brown are hosting**  
**“Washer Toss Open Tournament #2” & BBQ Dinner**  
**for the parishioners of St. Luke’s!**

*Come enjoy a Sunday evening of fellowship, good eats and a friendly game of “washers” at the Brown’s lovely home in Horseshoe Bay.*

**Date:** Sunday, May 1, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM

**Invitees:** St. Luke’s Parishioners (and those maybe interested in becoming parishioners)

**Address/Phone:** 506 Saddle Horn, Horseshoe Bay, 830/596-6638

**Bring:** Lawn chairs if you have them, your own drinks (except for ice tea which will be provided), and a side dish or dessert.

**Hosted by:** Charlie and Jeannine Brown, who will provide the BBQ and ice tea, their home and hospitality and their world-class washer court!

**RSVP:** Required for planning purposes. RSVP to Don Gray at 512-496-3583 or at [donaldkgray@gmail.com](mailto:donaldkgray@gmail.com). Please RSVP no later than Thursday, April 29th. In your RSVP please mention the food you are bringing to help use avoid duplication and also indicate if you can arrive early to help the Brown’s set-up or stay late to help with clean-up.

**Warning:** Charlie plays a mean game of washers, tough to beat. Real tough.

**Washer Champs will be crowned and blessed by the Vicar!**

**Continued from page 4, “From Our Senior Warden”**

The Policy and Guidelines Statement for the Columbarium is nearing completion. The final document will be presented at the next Bishop’s Committee meeting April 19, for approval. Once approved, the document will be available to parishioners. For information regarding the purchase of a niche, contact the church office. Also the Swope Hall “Use Requirements” policy statement is nearing completion. This has been brought before the board and a vote on the document is expected at our next meeting.

The Women’s Bible Study group continues to meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. This is a time to join with other Christian women in fellowship and study. These ladies truly seek a deeper understanding of “The Word” and they welcome everyone to this group with open arms.

Our annual Bishop’s Committee Retreat was held in March. For more information on the work done during those two days, please see the report (Bishop’s Committee Retreat) included in this newsletter.

Through our ministry programs we will be providing special learning and social opportunities throughout the rest of the year. Stay tuned for programs, dates and times. —Faithfully, Sandy Hodges, Sr. Warden

